

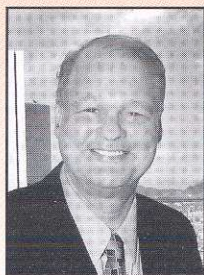
# Scoops

Providing the latest dish on Child Nutrition News and Information

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In this issue

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## From the Directors Desk

Now that summer is behind us, welcome to a new and exciting school year. Many of you were challenged with the automation of Direct Certification and we hope you have conquered computer glitches and finally located the names of all eligible children. New technology ventures always cause us to hold our breath regardless of the amount of beta testing. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. We hope the outcome will be positive and provide you with the names of more children eligible and less pieces of paper to process. This should make verification easier as well. Speaking of verification, we anticipate changes in Reauthorization since there continues to be more children receiving meals than the number eligible. Please review the Reauthorization memo on our web site for further information. Arizona has adopted a model nutrition policy and if you have not yet seen it, link to <http://www.ade.state.az.us/health-safety/cnp/nslp/NutritionPolicy-StateBoardMeeting.pdf> Consider taking it before your school board for adoption. Nutrition grants will be available to assist you in the implementation of this policy. If you are interested, review the application on line at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/nslp> under **WHAT'S NEW**.

I would like to conclude with my favorite quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson:

*To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.*

*This is to have Succeeded.*

Fondly,

Lynne Dulin  
Director, Student Services

## Calendar of Events

Date	Topic	Location	Time
Sept	National Food Safety Month		
Oct 14-15	Serving it Safe	Student Services, ADE	9-3
Oct 16	Preparing for your Administrative Review	Student Services, ADE	9-12
Oct 24	Marketing your School Lunch Program	AzSFSA, Tucson	9-5
Oct 24-25	AzSFSA Conference	Tucson	
Oct 25-28	ADE FNCE Conference	San Antonio, TX	
Oct 13-17	National School Lunch Week		
Nov 6 & Jan 7	Food Distribution	Student Services, ADE	8:30-12:00
Nov 6 & Jan 7	Nutrition Track	Student Services, ADE	1- 4:30
Nov 7 & Jan 8	Business Track	Student Services, ADE	8:30-3
Nov 18-21	ADE Mega Conference	Phoenix	

Register on line for ADE Classes at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/online/registration>





## Summer Food ends on a High Note

As summer draws to an end and students return to school, we at the Arizona Department of Education want to give thanks to all sponsors and sites operating a Summer Food Service Program. Your dedication and commitment to feeding hungry children who may not otherwise have opportunities to healthy meals in the summer months has led to an **18% increase** in summer meals served since 2001. Arizona has fed approximately **2,650,000 meals** this summer. We look forward to expanding the Summer Food Service Program even more next summer, and reaching a greater number of Arizona's children. For information on applications and trainings for the Summer Food Service Program, please watch for mailings this spring. If you currently do not have any summer feeding sites we challenge you to consider operating the Summer Food Service Program in your community next year. For more information with regard to eligibility please contact our office at (602) 542-8700 or (800) 352-4558 or visit our web-site at [www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/sfp](http://www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/sfp). Thanks again to all who contributed to the Summer Food Service Program this past summer.

You make  
The difference in  
your community  
and across  
Arizona.



A recent study published in the July 2003 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* looked at the food environment in secondary

schools to help improve the understanding of á la carte, vending machines, and nutrition policies and their influence on adolescents' food choices. Twenty Minnesota secondary schools participated in this study and data was collected on school food policies and availability as well as nutritional content of foods in school á la carte areas and vending machines. All twenty schools participated in the USDA National School Lunch Program. Items from the chips/crackers and ice cream/frozen desserts categories were available in all but 1 school and, combined, accounted for 21.5% of available á la carte foods. Fruit/vegetable items were available in 17 schools, but these items were only 4.5% of total á la carte foods available. Soft drinks were extremely prevalent. More than two thirds of schools had vending machine contracts. During the past 2 decades, soft drink consumption has increased by 100% among adolescents aged 11 to 17 years. Principals (5.9%) and food service directors (27.8%) reported their school had policies related to nutrition and food. Interestingly, 50% of the principals endorse providing only healthful foods for students at school, whereas only 31% of food service directors endorsed this view. These findings raise concerns, considering students consume up to 40% of their total energy intake at school with a large chunk contributing from á la carte areas and vending machines. The increased availability of high-fat, high-sugar, low-nutrient foods are sending the wrong message that these foods are acceptable encouraging students to choose these foods in preference to the reimbursable school meals found on the NSLP program. Schools need to take it upon themselves to identify alternative funding sources to replace potential revenue reductions that may result from enforcing nutrition policies that would ensure a healthier school food environment. For more detailed information on this important study visit <http://www.asfsa.org/newsroom/sfsnews/ajphstudy.asp>

# The Perils of A la Carte

## ADE Director's Memo relating to Child Nutrition Programs

Each memo may be accessed at <http://www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/nslp/>

Memo Number	Subject Description
CN 01-03	Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
CN 02-03	Violation of Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling
CN 04-03	Welcome Back
CN 06-03	Purchases of Locally Produced Foods in the School Nutrition Programs
CN 07-03	SFNS Credentialing Exam
CN 08-03	Documenting Free and Reduced-Price Eligibility of Homeless Children in the Child Nutrition Programs (updated)
CN 09-03	Food Recovery and Gleaning
CN 10-03	Administrative Review for 2002-2003 School Year
CN 11-03	Policy Update-Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value
CN 12-03	Special Milk Program Administrative Review for SY 2002-2003
CN 13-03	Policy Clarifications
CN 14-03	Meals Served to Students in Schools Not on NSLP
CN 15-03	Release of Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Information
CN 17-03	NSLP Severe Need Breakfast Rate Change
CN 18-03	SMP Administrative Review Update
CN 19-03	Military Household Size
CN 20-03	KidsCare School Memo
CN 21-03	Rollover Memo
CN 01-04	Direct Certification
CN 02-04	Change in Verification Procedures Change in Verification Procedures
CN 03-04	Update on Reauthorization
CN 04-04	Enhancements and Changes to Direct Certification System



National School Lunch Week 2003  
Wild About School Lunch | October 13 - 17, 2003

<http://www.asfsa.org/meetingsandevents/nslw>



# ★ congratulations ★ CRE & SMI Award Winners and Nominees

## Coordinated Review Effort Award Winner: Cartwright Elementary District

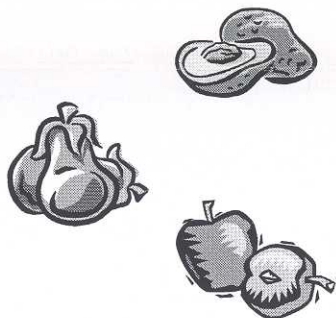


Cartwright Superintendent Dr. John Woollums, Judith Sawyer  
Lillie Sly, Assistant Superintendent, Arizona Department of Education

## School Meals Initiative Award Winner: Lourdes Catholic School



Jennifer Hickey CNP Specialist, Sister Luisa Maria Valdez  
Lourdes Catholic School, Nogales



### CRE Award Nominees

- Hopi Jr/Sr High School
- Madison Elementary District
- Tucson Unified District
- Pearce Elementary District
- Cartwright Elementary District
- Tempe Elementary District
- Kirkland Elementary District
- Lourdes Catholic School
- Chandler Unified District
- Wellton Elementary District
- Marana Unified District

### SMI Award Nominees

- Clifton Unified District
- Cartwright Elementary District
- Morenci Unified District
- Marana Unified District
- Lourdes Catholic School

**A total of 64 Sponsors were  
Reviewed for the 2002-2003  
school year. Thank you to all those  
schools for their cooperation during  
the review process.**

## Irradiated Beef in the National School Lunch Program

In May 2003, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the release of specifications for the purchase of irradiated ground beef for donation through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). USDA will make the commodity beef available to schools in January 2004.

This is a result of the 2002 Farm Bill, which directs USDA to not prohibit the use of approved food safety technologies on food purchased for the NSLP. Protecting the public from foodborne illnesses is a priority for USDA. Irradiation technology is another tool to enhance food safety.

The law also indicates that USDA needs to consider the acceptability by the schools. As a result, before USDA makes available the irradiated beef, consumer education materials have been sent to all schools to use in educating parents, students and the community. Packets went out in June to every single school district in the country. Accompanying the packet was a letter from Under Secretary Bost strongly encouraging schools to notify parents, students and the community if they plan to order the irradiated beef. With this information, it is USDA's hope that a well informed decision will be made on whether to order irradiated beef for their school lunch program.

There is a web site available that has an educational brochure you can print and use. It also provides a link to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) irradiation consumer information. The address is <http://schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov/Safety/FNSFoodSafety.htm>. The decision to order and serve irradiated ground beef will be made at the local school district level. Currently, there have been no Arizona schools that have requested ADE to purchase irradiated beef for school year 2004. However, that option is available to all schools requesting such a purchase.





## Direct Certification Simplified

Direct Certification has arrived for the state of Arizona. Burdensome applications will no longer be required for those students from families receiving Food Stamps (FSP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Cash Assistance (CA) benefits. These families are automatically certified to receive free meals. The decrease in administrative paperwork will be an enormous benefit to schools. Direct Certification also provides the opportunity to reach and provide a greater number of underprivileged children with a free school meal. A study conducted in 1996 discovered that Direct Certification actually increased the percentage of students certified for free meals. Even more important findings found an increase in the percentage of students eating free meals each day. Everyone wins with direct certification; more students participating translates to more revenue for the school lunch program.

A Direct Certification match is required at least once before October 1<sup>st</sup> for all Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. The Arizona Department of Education has provided schools with a CNP Direct Certification Guidance Manual to explain this fairly straightforward process. There are currently three different methods available to obtain this information; Data entry, File Upload and the State Match. A fourth option, Case Number Search Method (used to verify case numbers), will be available beginning mid-September.

Direct Certification match results always override income application results. If a paper application contradicts the direct match results regarding income, the direct match results must be taken at face value. DES Currently updates nightly rather than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. This provides schools with the most current eligibility information at DES. A benefit of Direct Certification is the fact that verification of eligibility is not required for any students who match. All that is required from the school district is a printed report from the direct match system proving that a child is directly certified for the program. If a child's name does not show up on the match then they cannot be certified, even if a sibling is on the list. If one child in a household matches and one does not it is because the household did not enter the child's name on their application to DES for FSP or CA. It is then the families' responsibility to contact DES and add the child to their DES application. That child may be granted temporary approval for up to 45 days. Some may ask just why Direct Certification is so important. Besides the fact that the process simplifies the paperwork for school districts, it is providing an essential element to a greater number of needy children; good nutrition. Good nutrition is a vital component to a child's ability to concentrate and learn during the school day. The National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program continually provide nutritious meals to low-income children free of charge. Unfortunately there are many parents who simply do not fill out applications for free meals. This could be due to any number of reasons from not understanding the application to embarrassment. Children who receive Food Stamps, TANF or CA benefits are automatically eligible for nutritious free meals. Direct Certification takes some of the pressure off those parents by not requiring them to fill out an application. Not only do schools benefit from greater participation leading to greater reimbursement, but also, students benefit with full bellies and the increased potential for academic success that comes with healthy, nutritious meals.

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